



## **5-Year Plan (2008 to 2012)**

# **North Yakima Conservation District**

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### **Organization of the North Yakima Conservation District**

The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) is dedicated to maintaining North Yakima County's renewable natural resources. The District is composed of landowners, land occupiers, and concerned citizens who serve on NYCD's Board of Supervisors as volunteers. NYCD is bordered by the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the west and the Columbia River to the east with the Yakima County line and Ahtanum Ridge forming the northern and southern boundaries respectfully. The NYCD is a political subdivision of Washington State government organized under "Conservation District Law", RCW Title 89, Chapter 89.08.

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### **Function of the North Yakima Conservation District**

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation and implementation of soil, water and related natural resource programs.

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### **We Serve & Why**

We serve: landowners; land users; land occupiers; the local community; stakeholders; natural resource users; governmental entities; interest groups; and all the people within NYCD.

Why do we serve: to promote and maintain best use(s) of natural resources; to achieve good stewardship of natural resources; to enhance, sustain and protect natural resources; to educate those we serve; and because NYCD willingly implements RCW 89.08.

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### **Mission Statement of the North Yakima Conservation District**

The mission of the North Yakima Conservation District is to make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources within our District.

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### **Vision of the North Yakima Conservation District**

The vision of the North Yakima Conservation District is to sustain the economic viability and culture of those who use and enjoy our natural resources.

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### **Values of the North Yakima Conservation District**

The NYCD stands for: providing technical and financial opportunities, promoting harmony, providing educational resources, operating under a voluntary/grass roots ideal, implementation of resource conservation, protection and enhancement, striving for the highest and best natural resource use, delivering resource conservation in all its forms without fear of regulatory consequences, natural resource sustainability, and honesty.

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### **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals**

Natural Resource concerns in priority order:

- 1. Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning:** Complete by 2009, plan(s) for land uses that strive to maintain agricultural use.  
Strategy: Preserve private property ownership by working with state, federal, non-governmental organizations through resolution to promote alternatives to "acquisition" programs. Action: Develop MOA/MOU with these entities and move forward a resolution through WACD to achieve strategy.  
Strategy: Work with local jurisdictions to establish programs and use existing programs that assist landowners in preserving economic viability and to keep private working lands in tack. Action:

Establish direct line of communication with Yakima County Commissioners, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and their staffs. This communication should go both ways.

Strategy: Use incentives/education to reach the goal. Action: Seek, develop and evaluate programs that provide incentives, for example conservation easements and development rights acquisition; for landowners to maintain agricultural uses; implement appropriate programs to maintain agricultural uses.

**2. Water Resources: (combined water quantity and water quality)**

By 2010 the Cowiche Watershed will yield enough water for legal uses and fish and wildlife needs.

Strategy: By 2009 deliver water to the Cowiche Creek Water User Association (CCWUA) from the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (YTID). Action: CCWUA and YTID agreement and implementation project being put together; develop alternative sources of water and/or implement programs/actions that benefit in-stream flows for all other surface water users.

Strategy: Provide a metering program for all legal water uses within the Cowiche Watershed.

Action: Support landowners in meeting water measurement compliance with DOE.

By 2011 identify Water Quality issues that will lead to implementation of corrective actions.

Strategy: Assist Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) in the development and implementation of the Naches River Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process and the Local Tributaries Fecal TMDL process. Action: Implement water quality improvement programs identified by the TMDL. In areas where water quality exceeds limits encourage DOE to be specific (i.e. DNA) in identifying fecal sources.

Strategy: Provide education to the public/landowners on issues related to water quality (causes, solutions incentives etc...). Action: Use the current Cowiche Creek Tributary Team as a forum to share information and seek input, etc... Utilize NYCD outreach program.

**3. Fish and Wildlife:** By 2011 assist all affected landowners with compliance issues related to the Endangered Species Act and State requirements regarding fish species on privately held lands within NYCD's Geographic Priority Areas.

Strategy: Provide technical assistance and financial incentives to provide for screened diversions, removal of barriers and improve in stream and riparian habitats. Action: Fully implement Tributary Team Plans, implement appropriate elements of the Yakima Sub-Basin Plan and Yakima Sub-Basin Salmon Recovery Plan, develop incentive programs, and develop technical assistance programs.

**4. Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)/Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO):** By 2011 assist affected landowners within NYCD's Geographic Priority Areas in becoming compliant with AFO/CAFO regulations.

Strategy: Educate affected landowners about regulations and responsibilities. Action: Staff will attend training sessions, conduct needs assessment and keep the NYCD Board informed.

Strategy: Provide and /or establish technical and financial assistance to affected landowners.

Action: Develop technical and financial assistance programs and fully implement the C.C. Livestock and Implementation Grants.

**5. Forestry:** By 2009 develop a program to assist private forestry landowners.

Strategy: Work with partner agencies to develop fire wise programs. Action: Apply for and sponsor applications for funding to support fire wise programs.

**6. Noxious Weeds and Pests: (focus areas: Irrigated cropland, rangeland):** By 2010 develop an integrated pest management program.

Strategy: Work with the Yakima County Noxious Weed Board. Action: Mutually develop programs that identify areas of infestation and methods of control for implementation at the request of the landowner.

Strategy: Work with appropriate entities such as WSU, WSDA, USDA and Horticultural Associations; to address fruit pest issues. Action: Develop programs for Education and Outreach, and Implementation.

7. **Air Quality:** Continue strategy/action development and pursue related technical/financial programs.

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### **Critical Geographic Areas: (maps attached)**

Cowiche, Ahtanum, Naches and Wide Hollow Watersheds.

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### **Information – Education Priorities and Goals:**

**Information/Education:** By 2009 increase the knowledge level of all landowners listed on NYCD's assessment role.

Strategy: maintain NYCD's newsletters and website. Action: Seek funding to establish effective strategy, develop a mailing list for NYCD's newsletter, produce a semi-annual newsletter, expand website.

Strategy: Establish relationships with appropriate organizations and entities (ie. WDFW, Master Gardeners, school districts, Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association, etc...) to actively share goals and mission statements to find common ground to support each other. Action: Board Members and staff need to familiarize themselves with the natural resource issues and priorities of those organizations and entities. In addition Supervisors and staff need to actively work with these entities and organization to communicate these priorities.

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### **District Operations Priorities and Goals:**

**District Operations:** Maintain, expand and provide effective Natural Resource Conservation programs in an efficient, legal and fiscally responsible manner.

Strategy: Identify financial needs of the NYCD. Action: Participate in those activities that create and/or maintain funding sources (legislative actions, committee participation, etc...). Strategy: Utilize the Plant Material Facility to meet the Annual Plan and 5-year Plan of the District. Action: The PMF Committee will seek out all opportunities to utilize the PMF. Strategy: NYCD assessment. Action: Maintain NYCD's annual assessment and direct it to meet the Annual and 5-year Plan of the District.

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### **Trends Impacting Conservation in the North Yakima Conservation District**

1. State budget issues, decreased funding, states deficit
  2. Agricultural vs. urban conflicts, increased pressure from development, restrictions, etc...
  3. Fish and stream driven projects vs. agricultural projects
  4. Increase need to be creative in matching funding sources for the District to operate
  5. Water Quality mandates, districts involvement
  6. Endangered Species Act issues
  7. New water quality issues, AFO/CAFO, storm water management, etc...
  8. Ability of NYCD to maintain a quality of service to it's customers
  9. A broader impact or stakeholder group
  10. District involvement in federal programs (implementation)
  11. Increased negative focus towards agricultural related issues
  12. Districts' increased recognition in ability to address resource issues
  13. Disconnection with partners in technical issues
  14. Spending an inappropriate amount of time looking for funds rather than implementing
  15. Water resource needs vs. water supply
  16. Increasing regulatory issues (Shoreline Management, Critical Areas, etc...)
  17. Need for integrated pest management.
  18. Loss of private property to public lands and non-profit organizations
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### **Strategies to Address Trends**

**Local, State and Federal funding issues:** Participate in legislative activities that provide conservation related funding.

**Water Resource and Water Quality related issues including ESA, Irrigation, and Municipal uses:** Support water storage issues, assist landowners in meeting W/Q criteria and ESA requirements.

**Customer Service issues:** increase information and education outreach while maintaining a strong District implementation program(s).

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## Staffing Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following staffing needs:

- District Manager
- Financial Manager
- Information and Education Coordinator
- Resource Biologist
- Information/Technology/GIS technician
- Plant Material Facility technician
- Ag Preservation Specialist
- Reception/Secretary
- Resource Planners (4)
- Engineer
- Work Crew (2, 6 member crews)

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## Annual Budget Needs

In order to realize this 5-year plan NYCD proposes the following annual budget (2008 dollars):

- Salary - \$1,260,000
- District equipment - \$45,000
- Office Supplies - \$30,000
- Rent/Utilities - \$75,000
- Vehicle - \$100,000
- Programs/Cost Share - \$8,800,000
- Training - \$50,000
- Other - \$20,000
- 5% of above - \$269,000

Total Annual Budget = \$10,649,000

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## Key Decision Makers

- Elected officials (federal, state and local)
  - Conservation Commission Members and Staff
  - Washington Association of Conservation Districts and WACD Executive Director
  - Partner Entities (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation & Development Council, Department of Ecology, Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WSU Extension, etc...)
  - Stakeholder Groups (Washington State Cattleman's Associations, Hop Growers of Washington, Farm Bureau, Irrigation Districts, Dairy Federation, etc...)
  - Environmental Groups (Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, etc...)
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## Priority Actions – 12 Months (all actions are identified in NYCD's Annual Plan)

Actions	Begin Date	End Date
<b>Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning:</b> <b>Water Resources:</b> <b>Fish and Wildlife:</b> <b>AFO/CAFO:</b> <b>Forestry:</b> <b>Noxious Weeds and Pests: (focus areas: Irrigated Cropland, rangeland)</b> <b>Information/Education:</b> <b>District Operations:</b>	See Annual Plan For dates	

## NYCD Watershed Priorities

List of resource concerns for the North Yakima Conservation District

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improper land use practices (erosion related, public and private ownership, etc...)</li> <li>2. Changing plant, grass and forest cover</li> <li>3. Soil condition</li> <li>4. Wind erosion</li> <li>5. Air quality</li> <li>6. Water erosion</li> <li>7. Water quality</li> <li>8. Agricultural land use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>9. Development land use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>10. Forest land use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>11. Flood plain use/protection/enhancement</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Rangeland use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>13. Storm water (quality)</li> <li>14. Flood water (quantity)</li> <li>15. Riparian habitat use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>16. In stream habitat use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>17. Upland habitat(s) use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>18. Open space area(s) use/protection/enhancement</li> <li>19. Wildlife</li> <li>20. Native plants</li> <li>21. Resident and salmonid fisheries</li> <li>22. Water quantity</li> <li>23. Noxious Weeds</li> <li>24. Reintroduction of native or non-native species (plant and animal)</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

### Ahtanum Creek

1. 22 & 7
2. 8,9,10,11,12,23
3. 21,19 &24

### Black Rock

1. 12 & 8
2. 4
3. 19

### Cold Creek

1. 12
2. 19
3. 13

### Cowiche Creek

1. 8 & 12, 23
2. 22 & 7
3. 1
4. 21,19, &24
5. 9

### Moxee

1. 8,9 and 12
2. 5, 4, and 1
3. 7
4. 14, 15 and 16

### Naches and Tieton

1. 14, 11, 9 and 15
2. 8 & 10, 23
3. 7 & 22
4. 19, 21,& 24

### Selah

1. 9, 8 and 1
2. 7
3. 22
4. 21

### Selah Creek

1. 1 & 9
2. 12
3. 20

### Wenas Creek

1. 22, 7 and 15
2. 12, 1,2 & 24
3. 8,9, 10 and 1

### Wide Hollow Creek

1. 9 & 1
2. 15, 14 and 20
3. 7 & 22
4. 21

### Yakima River Urban

1. 1 & 2
2. 7 & 22
3. 11 & 14
4. 5

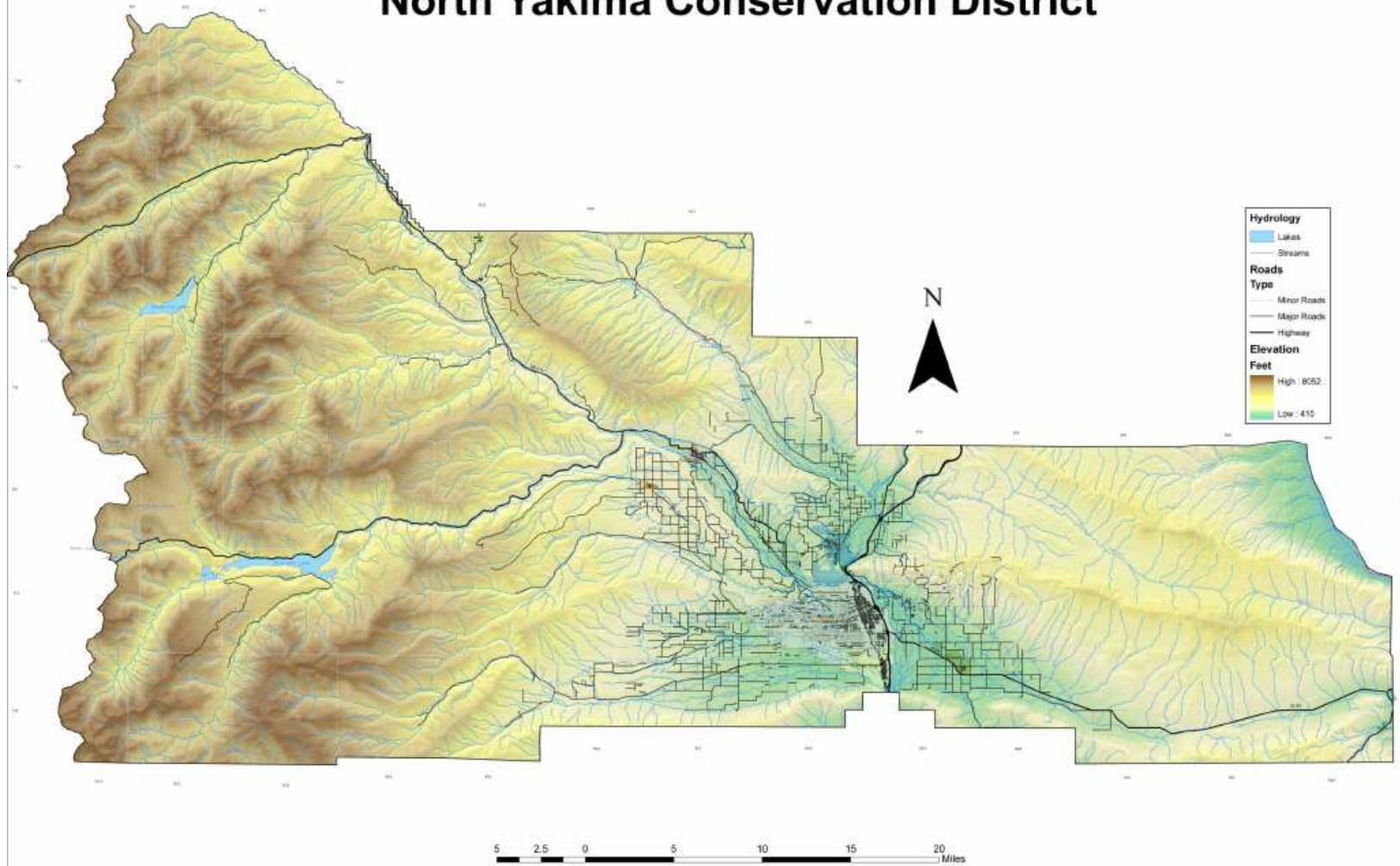




**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land  
Managers with their conservation choices**

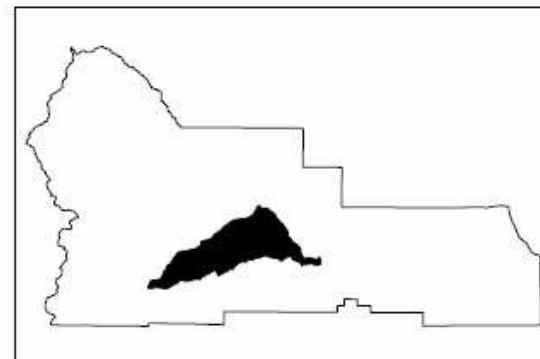
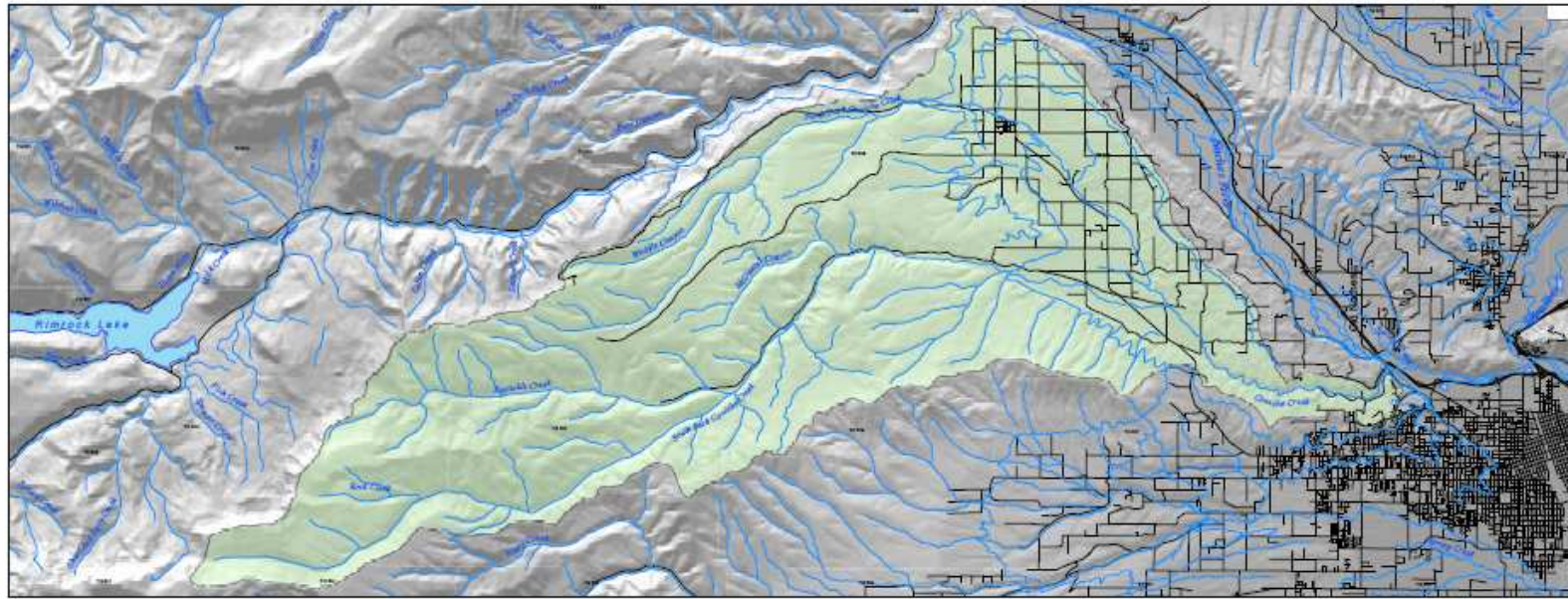


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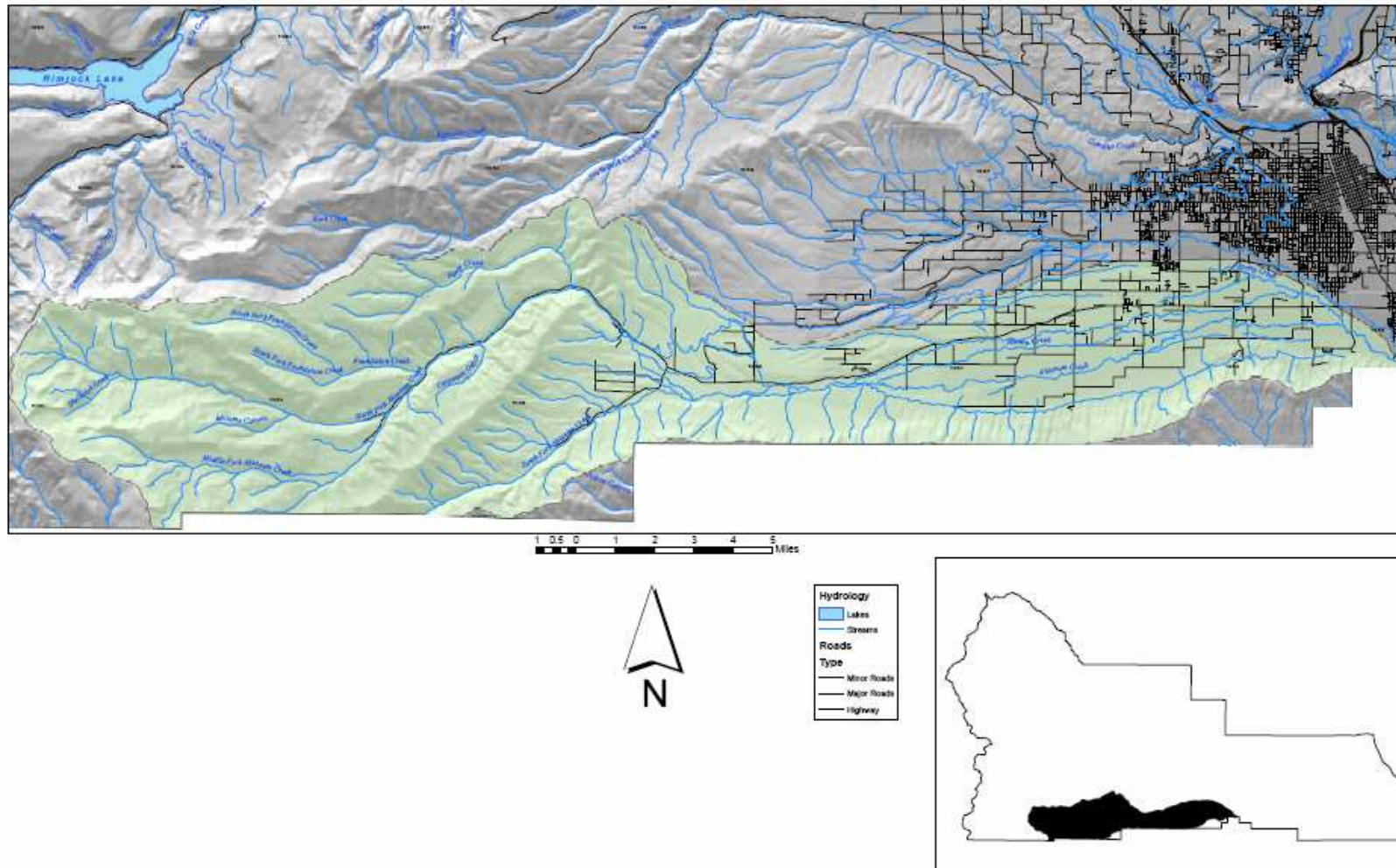




## North Yakima Conservation District: Cowiche Creek Watershed

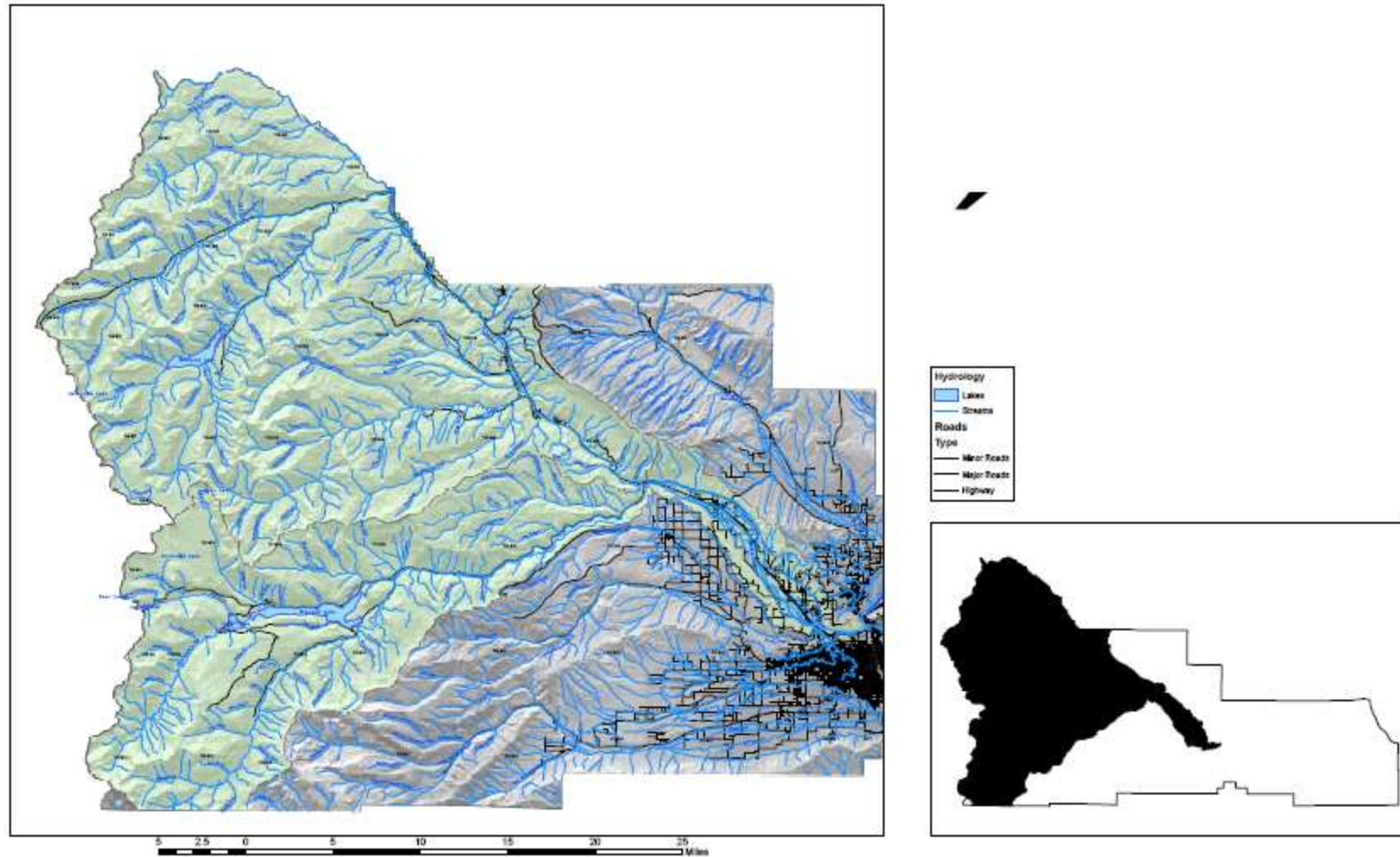


## North Yakima Conservation District: Ahtanum Creek Watershed

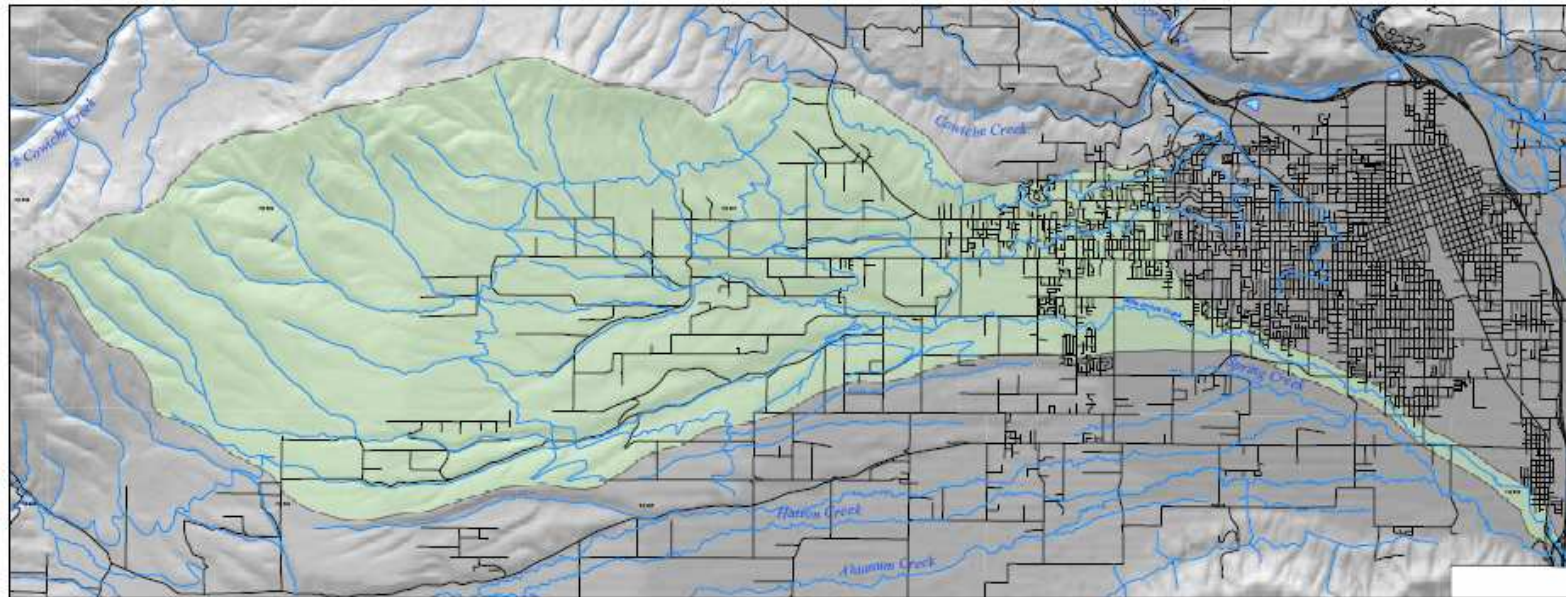




## North Yakima Conservation District: Naches/Tieton Watershed



## North Yakima Conservation District: Wide Hollow Creek Watershed



0.7 0.35 0 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 3.5  
Miles



Hydrology	
	Lakes
	Streams
Roads	
Type	
	Minor Roads
	Major Roads
	Highway

